

## Louisiana State Civil Service Commissioner



**James A. Smith**, nominated by Xavier University, has served as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission for the last 14 years. He was originally appointed to the Commission on January 30, 1975.

Few people can give an historical firsthand account of the Department of State Civil Service's past, an assessment of its present and a glimpse into its future. He recounts, "Times are changing, and I think we have to change. In the last 10 years, we've probably made 20 years of progress."

Through the eyes of a leader, Chairman Smith has witnessed the changing dimensions of the Department over the last three decades. "I don't know of anything that should be untouchable, except the protection we're supposed to afford and that we are obligated to afford to the employees. I think we should always have the employee's interest as an issue, also realizing we're here to serve the agencies," he says. "We have to always maintain a balance."

Smith is an attorney, and is currently the Chief Hearing Officer for the City of New Orleans Administrative Hearing Center. He is responsible for training and supervising hearing officers who hear and decide appeals of parking citations.

He has served as Assistant District Attorney for Orleans Parish and is a former Deputy Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission District Office in New Orleans.

Smith attended public schools in New Orleans. He received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Business Administration from Xavier University of New Orleans in 1954. He graduated from Loyola University Law School in 1958 with a Juris Doctorate Degree. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for three years and was discharged as a Lieutenant.

Smith and his wife Eunice travel extensively. His most memorable trip was to South Africa a few years ago.

